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#### 1897.

Inasmuch as the year, which begins this morning, will bring us very near the end of the nineteenth century, it may be well to review the political and international con- the South Africa Company, we presume ditions under which the United States and | that this corporation will be left in posses some other important countries are approaching the new age.

For our own people the concluding years of the present century ought to be marked by a revival of prosperity, for the party which returns to power on March 4 is pledged to a monetary policy certain to prevent an unsettlement of values, and to a fiscal policy calculated to produce not a deficit, but a surplus, and to avert the borrow ing of money for the payment of current expenses. On the Republican party, provided it shall succeed in gaining control of the Senate, will rest the whole responsibility for Federal legislation, and we have no doubt that its duty to the nation will be recognized and properly discharged. For the smooth and effective working, however, of parliamentary institutions, the existence of two great parties has been hitherto found indispensable, and, therefore, all farseeing men, without regard to their political predilections, must desire to witness the reconsolidation and reinvigoration of the National Democracy. That time-honored organization was last autumn weakened and discredited by the organized secession of most of its distinguished leaders, a secession which may be compared to the exodus of the Peelites from the Conservative party in Great Britain. But the Democracy has survived even more formidable blows; we refer, of course, to the Barnburner movement of 1848, and to the rupture between the followers of DougLas and those of BRECKINRIDGE in 1860. It will also be engineers of the Barnburner revolt took an active part four years later in restoring their party to power, and stood high in the councils of President FRANKLIN PIERCE. There is no insuperable reason why the soundmoney and the free-silver Democrats should not reunite, once relieved from the incubus of Clevelandism, but for the violent reaction against which a different view of the country's monetary needs would have prevailed in the Chicago Convention. The talk of shutting the door in the faces of bolting Democrats and of condemning to back seats men who have been accustomed to lead, is unworthy, we will not say of statesmen, but even of practical politicians. How is a party cruits at the ballot box ? And where is the Democracy so likely to secure these as in the ranks of men who have been stalwart and lifelong Democrats? The silver question is to another National Convention.

which would scarcely have been shaken by any cause of difference now visible had Lord agreement, that the boundary of British nition of our inflexible intention to interpose on behalf of American republics, when their territorial integrity or their form of government is threatened, the Monroe doctrine | Ireland on this side of the Atlantic. may be said to have taken a long step weaker naval powers will venture hereafter to challenge the position assumed by Mr. CLEVELAND, now that the greatest of or even the independence of the Cuban revolutionists would involve us in a war with Spanish-American colonies was recognized of a recognition by Congress, because we have no doubt that, if a resolution to that successor. It is to be hoped that the new year will not be two months old before Congress has performed the duty prescribed by humanity and justice, without reference to which Mr. OLNEY has made public

tent, from the state of isolation to which she had been reduced by Lord ROSEBERY. She has not, indeed, recovered the influence which she lost in the far East through her failure to side either with Japan or with blued with Russia, France, and Germany in the joint intervention which extorted from Japan the retrocession of the Liau-tung peninsula, she would have at least kept the good will of the Chinese Government, but, as it in France during the last ten years, will be is, she is as powerless at Pekin as she is at effectively arrested. Tokio, Now, however, that her Government has had the good sense to avoid trouble by an honorable settlement of the Venexuela affair, she is left at liberty to exert

have annihilated a considerable fraction of the Armenian people. That the understanding with Russia leaves England free to construct the projected public works in Egypt, and to regain the Khedive's former possessions in the Soudan is also a reasonable assumption. The successful occupation of Dongola proves that a signal change has taken place on both sides since destruction of the force under HICKS Pasha, the Mahdists baving lost their former irresistible arder, and the Angle-Egyptian levies having acquired steadiness and valor. There seems to be no reason why Sir HERBERT KITCHENER, the Sirdar or Commander-in-Chief of the expeditionary column, should not, before the present year is old, push forward as far as Shendy, if not to Omdurman itself. The eventual reëstablishment of Khedival authority throughout the eastern Soudan, including the equatorial province, will render at least conceivable the accomplishment of RHODES, the construction of a railway and a telegraph line in British territory across the whole length of Africa from Cairo to the Cape. As regards the future disposition of Mashonaland and Matabeleland, the territories at present controlled by sion for at least another year, seeing that it has shown itself able to put down the native revolt, and inasmuch as the investigation of the connection of its officers with the Jameson raid is expected to be perfunctory and inconclusive. That there is ground for the report that the several South African States, now semi-independent or colonial, may presently combine to form an independent republic, we do not believe, because both France and Germany have colonial establishments in their vicinity which might become dangerous neighbors to a weak commonwealth, and because Mr. CECIL RHODES, who once might have brought about a union, has irreparably alienated the Dutch-speaking population. In British domestic politics the Government, headed by Lord Salisbury, has be-

fore it the duty of completing the programme of legislation to which it stands committed, but which during the last session it was obliged to leave unfinished, although it was backed by a majority of nearly 150 in the House of Commons. The most important feature of this programme is the so-called Education bill, the purpose of which is to give increased assistance to the voluntary schools, as contradistinguished from the Board Schools. The issues involved in the measure may be roughly described as, first, a contest between religious and secular education, and, secondly, a contest between the Church of England and the Nonconformists. As the representatives of the called to mind that some of the most zealous | Church of England constitute a large majority of the present House, we presume that the Government will pass the bill in the course of the coming session, although not, perhaps, without one or two concessions to unsatisfied sections of its own following. The large annual outlay on the navy, provided for by a recent law, may not improbably be increased, for it is now known that both Russia and France are preparing to expend even larger sums for the development of their sea power. That the Ministers will be trammelled, in respect of the time needed to pass the measures on which they lay most store, may be inferred from the fervor with which all parties in Ireto gain power except by gaining fresh re- land, the Unionists as well as the three National sections, are combining to urge the reduction of the contribution now made by their country to the imperial exchequer. The almost unanimous report of unlikely to figure in the foreground the Royal Commission, charged with the of politics four years hence, except | investigation of the subject, shows that for in the improbable contingency of an a large number of years the sum annually agreement being reached by an interespectation of the continuous states of the continuous continuous and a large number of years the sum annually agreement being reached by an interespectation. exacted from Ireland exceeds, by at least striking. Of her vast regular army, by far national bimetallic conference. As for the \$12,500.000, the amount which would be the largest part has now been massed in other features inserted in the Chicago pro- proportionate to her population. This is a cantonments west of a line drawn from gramme for the purpose of pleasing the wrong to which it will be difficult for a Riga to Odessa, or within a short distance mob, the features aimed at the United States | Government, professing to believe that of that line. Meanwhile, the funds, which Supreme Court and at the incomes of the Ireland is justly treated under the Act of are the sinews of war, will also be thrifty, they contributed so materially and Union, to refuse redress. But it would forthcoming, for the Russian treasury is large extent, absorb the attention of the With regard to our international outlook | House of Commons. Indeed, Ireland may, there is no reason to suppose that the com- once again, occupy a session to the almost ing year will witness a disturbance of our complete exclusion of other public business. amicable relations with Great Britain, if the Unionists bring forward a measure, advocated by some of their newspaper organs, to make the representation of Ireland SALISBURY carried out Lord GRANVILLE'S in Parliament proportionate to her population, a change which would cut down, by Guiana should be determined by a court of about 20, the number of her members. On arbitration. With England's formal recog- the whole, the prospect is that the proceedings of the House of Commons, during this | duction of those parliamentary institutions, twelvemonth, will deserve to be watched with peculiar interest by the friends of

In France the new year opens with the toward becoming a part of public law. It Opportunists, or Moderates as they now is extremely improbable that any of the prefer to be called, enjoying the fruits of the victory which they won in the Senate by compelling the Radical Cabinet, constructed by M. Bourgeois, to resign. The present maritime nations has deemed it wise to ac- Ministry, as is well known, is headed quiesce in it. Neither is it likely that the by M. MELINE, the chief of the French recognition by Congress of the belligerency protectionists and bimetallists; but perhaps the most influential member of the Council is the Minister for Foreign Af-Spain. The independence of a number of | fairs. M. HANOTAUX, who has managed to make himself regarded by his countrymen by us in 1822, yet Spain did not declare as almost indispensable to the maintenance war on that account. We have spoken of the alliance between Russia and France. So inestimable, for the moment, is the friendship of Russia in the eyes of the effect should be passed over the President's | French people, that there is some basis in veto, it would be universally acknowledged fact for the satirical assertion that, to be law, and would be faithfully carried had a plebiscite been taken a month out, if not by Mr. CLEVELAND, then by his ago, and had the Czar been a candidate, he would have been acclaimed French Emperor by a vast majority of votes. What is certain is that, at present, no Cabinet, of | to connect her lines with the proposed Chiwhich the Czar disapproves, could long susthe singular view of the executive functions tain itself in the French Chamber, and, Port Arthur for a naval station. consequently, the strongest card which M. If we turn to the United Kingdom we | MELINE can play is the well-known confi- | inet headed by the Marquis DI RUDINI still | quently there is a lively time within the Tamfind that she has emerged, to a certain ex- dence reposed by the St. Petersburg tiovernment in his Minister for Foreign Affairs. Of course, so long as the Moderates, fortified as they are by the firm support of the Senate and of President FAURE, by what was supposed at the close of the China in the recent war. Had she com- last general election to be a large majority of the Chamber, and by the good wishes of the Russian court, can succeed in retaining office, the drift toward extreme Jacobinism and Socialism, which has been so noticeable

The foreign policy of Germany, so far as the far East is concerned, will no doubt by Italy renounce; herdream of aggrandizecontinue to be adjusted with a view to ment in Abyssinia and agreed to content minimize the chances of a rupture with the | herself henceforth with the narrow and her proper share of authority at Con- Russian Empire. She acted in concert, or, relatively valueless strip of territory known stantinople, and there seems to be no rather, in rivalry with France for the pur- as Erythma. But the present Ministry doubt that Russia and France are co- pose of giving Russia the use of Port Arthur has to face the seemingly insoluble operating with her in good faith to en- as a naval station, together with the practi- problem of making both ends meet force upon the Sultan the adoption of cal control of Manchuria, and by that without a material reduction of the such reforms as are essential for the course she did something to restore the army, which is the sole guarantee of security of his Christian subjects, friendly relations with St. Petersburg Italy's place among the first-class powers. We may happily take it for granted that | interrupted by CAPRIVI's refusal to renew | It is also confronted by the impossibility before the year now opening is far advanced. the secret treaty which had been made by of constructing a stable majority out of the Mr. PURROY got up the red-hot "Central effectual precautions will have been taken | BISMARCK. Where the fate of Turkey is at | innumerable cliques which make up the

the advisers of WILLIAM II. fully to satisfy the Czar, without estranging the Hapsburg sovereign. In the Austro-Hungarian realm the preponderant influence is exercised by the Magyars, and their interest cannot be reconciled with the fulfilment of the Russian dream of aggrandizement in the Balkan Peninsula and of the conquest of Constantinople. Here lies the real crux of the Ottoman situation. The intricate fabric of diplomatic intrigue woven by Prince LOBANOF, the meshes of which are still unbroken, would be rent asunder the moment that the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH should be constrained by his Hungarian subjects to declare himself inflexibly opposed to the Czar's assumption of a protectorate over the Turkish Empire, for WILLIAM II. would, almost certainly, be constrained to support his ally, and, in that event, England, reverting to her traditional policy, would, probably, follow suit. If any clue is discoverable in the dream ascribed to Mr. CECIL the tangled web of opposed interests in southeastern Europe, it is this, that in the last analysis the destiny of Turkey depends on the attitude of the Magyars. No incident of much consequence is looked

for in the home politics of the German Empire during the year now opening. The Imperial Chancellor, not being responsible to the Reichstag, the proceedings of that body are seldom of great importance, except when extraordinary appropriations are required. The amount annually assignable for the maintenance of the army has been fixed for a term of years, and Germany's treaties with Austria and Italy have, also, some time to run. Whether the Government can secure the sums required for the expansion of the navy depends on its ability to satisfy the Catholic party of the Centre, which commands more votes in the Reichstag than any other single faction, and which, through its affiliations with other elements of the opposition, may be said to dominate the popular assembly. What the Catholic party wants is the repeal of the law against the Jesuits, a repeal already sanctioned by the Reichstag, and which would be ratified by the Bundesrath, if the votes belonging to Prussia in that body, or influenced by her, were to be massed with those of Bayaria for the measure. If Prince VON HOHENLOHE and his imperial master really want a great navy, they can get it through the aid of the Centrists, but only by following BISMARCK'S example and performing the journey to Canossa, through re-

pealing the last remnant of the Falk laws. While, however, this promises to be a quiet year in Germany so far as domestic issues are involved, a very different state of things exists in Austria-Hungary. During the twelvemonth now begun it will be necessary to renew the two decennial treaties by which are fixed the fundamental relations of the two portions of the Hapsburg dominion. We refer, first, to the treaty between the Cis-Leithan and Trans-Leithan kingdoms, whereby the portion of the collective taxation to be borne by each moiety is defined; and, secondly, to the treaty which regulates the commercial intercourse between the semi-independent realms. It is known that the Magyars have already announced an intention of refusing to reënact the commercial treaty, and a prolonged controversy on this point may produce a serious tension of feeling between the kingdoms. If Hungary recedes from her present attitude with regard to the tariff or to her share of imperial taxation, it will doubtless be in consideration of certain engagements made with regard to the Hapsburg foreign policy, which is, as we have said, inextricably connected with the internal complications of the dual monarchy.

Of Russia, it may still be said, as it was

said a year ago, that she is collecting her

resources, although the hour when she is to use them on the Bosphorus, if not upon the Vistula, is evidently nearer the point of been already mentioned that arrangements those additions have been completed, as in the course of the next half dozen years they will be, Russia will have a war fleet but little inferior to that possessed by France at the present time. As regards internal administration, there is no prospect of a change. There are no signs that Nicholas II. contemplates the introwhich were projected by his grandfather, just before the latter's assassination. The foolish report that the present Czar intended to be his own Chief Minister and, indeed, to discharge the public business without the help of any Minister at all, has ceased to circulate; the colossal task would have proved, of course, impracticable. It is true that no successor to Prince LOBANOF has been designated; but LOBANOF's ideas continue to govern the St. Petersburg foreign office, except so far as they may have been modified very recently, to assure England's cooperation in the solution of the Turkish problem. As M. POBEDONOSTZEFF remains the Procurator of the Holy Synod, it is to nates the empire's internal affairs. But, while the year opens without hope for the reformers in European Russia, it marks the beginning of an era of remarkable progress in Siberia. The Trans-Siberian Railway, already in large part completed, will be pushed with redoubled energy, now that Russia has secured the right to traverse nese railways, and to use in case of need

In Italy the new year begins with the Cabin office, and with Signor CRISPI apparently in permanent eclipse, owing to Signor Giolitti's disclosure of documents showing cal revolt. Perhaps it will encourage that CRISPI received funds improperly from the Banca Romana. But CRISPI retains a certain following, together with the good will of his sovereign, and he has emerged so | tiges of their power passing from the often after ostensible shipwrecks that, notwithstanding his great age, it is possible that he may yet recover power. That RUDINI can long maintain himself in the post of Premier nobedy believes, although both the Chamber and the country received without much dissatisfaction the news of the treaty where-

to exist until a consolidation of the various Radical groups is rendered compulsory by the presence of a strong Conservative party. No such cohesion can be looked for until the Catholic irreconcilables, who constitute about one-half of the registered voters, are permitted by the Pope to take part in the general elections; in which event they might possibly return a majority of Deputies to Parliament. At present it cannot be said that Italy presents a pleasant spectacle. Not only her fiscal but her whole economic situation is distressing. She is a poor country, possessing but little capital of her own, and a comparatively small amount of commerce or manufactures; and in the former kingdom of Naples, especially in Sicily, she is saddled with customs in regard to labor and the tenancy of land that impose almost insuperable obstacles to industrial progress. Who can doubt, however, that a people which has once led the world in arms, and once in arts, and which, even in these later times, has, by a final and decisive effort, freed her soil from the foreigner, will yet evince the self-denial and sagacity needed to gain a fair measure of prosperity

The situation in which Spain finds her self at the outset of 1897 is in truth deplor able. The chief remnants of her once worldwide colonial empire, Cuba and the Philip pines, are both the scenes of insurrection and Madrid's statesmen are confronted with the danger that unless the rebellions can be put down promptly, both of those precious possessions will escape them, one falling ultimately to the United States, and the other to Japan. A prompt suppression of the uprisings, however, seems beyond the power of the Spanish Government. It can, apparently, borrow no more money from foreign bankers except upon the security of the tobacco monopoly, which it is loath to part with; and the proceeds of the recent popular loan are already well-nigh exhausted. With an immense increase of disbursements imposed by the maintenance of a great army in Cuba, and of a considerable force in the Philippines, is coupled a serious curtailment of the normal receipts, the returns from Havana and Manila having sunk to a fraction of their ordinary volume. So grave are the existing and the threatened fiscal difficulties, and so hopeless is the prospect of surmounting them, that the managers of the Spanish exchequer are driven to their wits' end. The rainy season in the West Indies is now not far distant, yet there is no prospect of expelling the revolutionists even from Pinar del Rio before operations must be suspended. It follows that Spain, if she is obdurate to the demand for Cuban independence, must sustain the war for at least another year; by which time she will be plunged in irreparable bankruptcy. If, on the other hand, she would consent to give Cuba independence on condition that the island should assume a debt of several hundred million dollars, payable to the mother country, and guaranteed by the United States, Spain would be at once delivered from an intolerable load, and could apply all her resources to the recovery of the Philippines. This at least seems certain, that by the present Congress or by the next something will be done for the Cubans before this year has closed.

It only remains to add that an act of wisdom, undertaken by President HARRISON in the last hours of his administration, but interrupted by President CLEVELAND to his discredit and discomfiture, will undoubtedly be carried out by President McKINLEY before the end of the coming twelvemonth. Our New Year's gift from the new Chief Magistrate will be the Hawaiian Islands. annexed either in the form of a territory or that of a State.

Purroy and Tammany Hall. The term of HENRY D. PURROY, as County Clerk, terminates on Dec. 31, 1897, and his favored the peaceful transfer of Cuba to successor in that office will be chosen on Tuesday, Nov. 2, irrespective of the adoption or postponement of the compleso notoriously to the Democratic defeat that not be surprising if the discussion of known to have accumulated several hundred tion of the Greater New York projthey are unlikely to commend themselves the method of redress should, to a millions of dollars in gold. The fact has ect. Preliminary to the canvass for the choice of his successor as County have been made to lay out annually a great | Clerk, a post which he has held for too sum upon additions to the navy. When terms, Mr. PURROY, with the cooperation cast the day when Spain's hold upon Cuba of such of his neighbors and followers as would either be peaceably released or are residents of the territory north and east of the Harlem River, has set himself up in political business independently by refusing to acknowledge the power of the Tammany Committee on Organization, of which he is Chairman, to regulate the holding of the primaries in the two Assembly districts, the Thirty-fourth and Thirtyfifth, in which Mr. PURROY has control of the machine. These primary elections will take place on Jan. 15. That will be one week after the celebration of the Democratic anniversary of "Jackson's Day," a celebration not of very much account in Tammany Hall, since its leaders forswore the support of the Jacksonian principles and espoused Bryanism and repudiation. The Tammany primary elections are usually cut-and-dried affairs, held in the shortest

> time possible, except when there is a contest on hand, when the voting hours are lengthened, and the appointment of the inspectors of the primary is taken from the local committee and vested be inferred that his influence still domi- in the central organization. There are contests in both of the districts to which we have referred, the Thirtyfourth and Thirty-fifth Assembly, and the extension of the hours for voting and the appointment of inspectors by the central organization have been accepted by Mr. PURROY and his associates as a declaration of warfare against him by Mr. Sheeand virtually to occupy Chinese Manchuria, HAN, now the acknowledged leader of the remnants of the Tammany Hali organization left after the campaign of 1896. Mr. PURROY has raised what is called "the standard of revolt" against Mr. SHEEHAN, and consemany ranks. It may be more truly described as a political diversion rather than a politisome otherwise dispirited Democrats in and out of New York city, at a time they are forced to see the last veshands of their representatives at Albany, while everywhere appear increased evidences of Republican influence and popularity. Apart from this, the obstreperous opposition of Mr. PURROY and his friends to the leadership of Mr. Sheehan does not seem likely to amount to much, for, probably, with the possible exception of the grotesque SULZER, there is no man in Tammany Hall to-day less fitted than Mr. PUB-BOY to restore that organization to its old place in the confidence and esteem of conservative Democrats as a bulwark of law and order and the rights of property.

Unhappliy for Mr. PURROY, his opposition to the leadership of Mr. Sheehan had its origin in his belief that SHEEHAN was "lukewarm to BRYAN." For that reason Bryan and Sewall Club," which proposed

the town, and whose real purpose was to drive SHEERAN out of Tammany after BRYAN had been elected, for Mr. PURROT expected that he would be elected; at all events, was convinced that he ought to be elected. Mr. PURROT wants to make the Bryanization of Tammany complete and permanent, although the result of the election was so disappointing to him, Mr. Mc-KINLEY's majority in his own Thirty-fifth district having been 1,700, and in the Thir-

ty-fourth about 1,100. HENRY D. PURROY has been holding office in this city with practically no interruption since 1874, when Fordham, where he resides, was officially joined to New York. In that year he was elected a member of the Board of Aldermen. He was reëlected in 1875, and continued as an Alderman until appointed a Fire Commissioner by that now obscured politician, Mr. WILLIAM R. GRACE. After having held the post of Fire Commissioner by subsequent reappointments until 1892, he was elected County Clerk, and was reflected in 1895. Mr. PURROY, with so extensive a record of unbroken officeholding, can hardly obtain much sympathy in a revolt against Tammany Hall on the score of neglect of him

and his friends. This intestine quarrel is only interesting as showing the extent to which the suppor of BRYAN and repudiation has disorganized and disintegrated the Tammany organization. It does not seem to afford ground for expecting that the estrangement of the nembers, who gave it its former strength with the conservative interests of New York, will be cured.

## Our Attitude Toward Cuba.

It might be supposed from the attacks made upon the report of the Senate Foreign Committee in favor of acknowledging Cuba's independence, that no steps had ever been taken in Congress toward putting an end to Spain's sovereignty over the island.

Any such mistaken impression will be dispelled by examining the documents appended to Mr. CAMERON's recent report. As ong ago as 1859 the Senate Foreign Committee recommended the passage of a bill to acquire Cuba by purchase, the sum appro-

priated under that bill being \$30,000,000. The report declared that "the ultimate acquisition of Cuba may be considered a fixed purpose of the United States," long formed, recognized by all parties, and re sulting from political and geographical necessities. JEFFERSON, writing to MONROE on the 23d of June, 1828, had declared that the addition of Cuba "is exactly what is wanting to advance our power as a nation to the point of its utmost interest;" and John Quincy Adams, writing as Secretary of State, about two months earlier, to Minister NELSON at Madrid, declared that there are laws of political as well as of physical gravitation, and that "if an apple severed by the tempest from its native tree cannot choose but fall to the ground, Cuba, forcibly disjoined from its own unnatural connection with Spain, and incapable of self-support, can gravitate only toward the North American Union."

We no longer look upon Cuba as incapable of self-support, and hence whatever we may now do for her welfare as a neighbor will be to that extent more disinterested But the special point is that long ago the proposal to put an end to Spanish dominion in Cuba, on suitable terms, was discussed in the Senate as a matter quite within its powers and entirely proper to consider,

Still earlier, Secretary BUCHANAN, Writing to Mr. SAUNDERS on June 17, 1848, announced his belief that "an effort should be made to purchase the island of Cuba from Spain," as Louisiana had been purchased from France. He fixed the maximum price at \$100,000,000, asking Mr. SAUNDERS to obtain it if possible for less. The Senate Foreign Committee in 1859 was disposed, as has been seen, to give only \$30,000,000. Secretary EVERETT, under President FILLMORE. the United States, and a similar measure was advocated by President POLK. But Mr. MARCY, in 1853, found reason to believe "that Spain will pertinaciously hold on to Cuba, and that the separation, whenever it

takes place, will be the work of violence." Our diplomacy for generations has forewrenched off. It has always been understood that the first feeling of Spain at losing the island would be one of poignant regret, but the Senate Foreign Committee's report of 1859 went into facts and figures at length to show that the severance would be

better for Spain and Cuba in the end. To-day the question is not that of purchasing or annexing Cuba, but of acknowledging an independence which she has won for herself by force of arms, and maintained for nearly two years. To describe such an acknowledgment, now proposed by the Senate Foreign Committee, as unwarranted, or as likely to involve us in war with Spain, seems little less than absurd. For years we have been urging the monarchy to consider that Cuba might take the course which all her other colonies in America have taken; and if now our friendly offices should be urged upon her, as the Cameron resolution proposes, in order to bring about peace, their result, if accepted, might be that of insuring her a very large indemnity, payable out of the island's annual revenue, in place of her present severe war expenses.

Were the loss of territory in America a novel experience for Spain, Congress might, perhaps, hesitate somewhat in disclosing the unpleasant fact to her in the case of Cuba. But since one by one she has lost all her other colonies here, there hardly exists a question of delicacy on that point.

## The Dauntless and the Commodore,

The authorization given by Secretary CAR-LISLE to the Collector of St. John's to clear | its the Dauntless for Nucvitas and the Commodore for Cienfuegos, both of these being ports in Cuba, has naturally caused a stir. yet the real novelty is not in the instructions, but in the application for such clear

ance papers. From the foundation of our Government the law has been uniform that the trade in arms and munitions of war is as legitimate as any other trade, the only point of difference being in the liability of war materials to be seized on the way or in the port to which they are consigned. Small arms, cannon, powder, and shot are ordinary articles of merchandise; they are manufactures which the citizens of a neutral State have a right to continue to produce and export, subject to the right of a belligerent to prevent their entrance into any harbor over which he has control, as a measure of self defence and self-preservation.

What our neutrality statutes, founded on international law, forbid is the fitting up or sending out of an armed expedition to make war on a country with which ours is at peace, as the Alabama was sent out from Engiand. But the despatch of munitions against a renewal of the massacres which stake, however, it is almost impossible for Italian Chamber, and which will continue to have ramifications in various districts of in cargo on a commercial ship is a wholly either in Dublia or out of it.

different matter. On that point the doc trine has been the same from the days of ALEXANDER HAMILTON to those of JOHN G. CARLISLE, and it is contained in the words of KENT: "Neutrals may lawfully sell at home to a belligerent purchaser, or carry themselves to a belligerent purchaser, contraband articles, subject to the right of seizure in transitu. The right of the neutral to transport and of the hostile power to seize, are conflicting rights, and neither party can charge the other with a criminal act." The case is even strengthened by Spain's position that no war exists in Cuba; and certainly under that view neither the Dauntless nor the Commodore, on the voyages now contemplated, can be seized on the high seas.

### Less than ninety days more of CLEVELAND

Some matters scheduled for 1897: Eclipse of the sun, partly visible in New York, Feb. 1; departure of GROVER CLEVELAND from the office of President on March 4; inauguration of WILLIAM McKINLEY on the same day; St. Patrick's Day on Wednesday, March 17; July 4, 1897, falls on Sunday, and election day on Nov. 2, earlier than usual. It will be election day for the whole of the Greater New York, the irst of the kind for an American municipality of 3,000,000 inhabitants.

The leading Mugwump tariff reform jour nals have just begun to flow over with very ex-alted contempt for the policy of what they call 'Hearings," adopted by the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives preliminary to a new tariff bill. The right time for this was two years ago. Then, the tariff reformers themselves being in control of a Ways and Means Committee that was pledged to abolish protection and make a tariff for revenn only, the first thing done by Chairman Wilson was to appoint "Hearings," at which the representatives of the manufacturers could appear and plead, as they are pleading now. We are sorry to say that no one of these now indignant tariff smashers joined THE SUN At that time in its protests against such proceed ings as a direct violation of the platform of the year. Again, however, our contemporaries of this unfortunate class are wrong. Protection now the dominating policy, presupposes the right to examine industries, to discriminate, and to let revenue take its chance.

All the same, we imagine that the Dingley tariff, which is to come, will be immeasurably nearer to the "revenue only" standard than the miserable deficit-making secentricity which was laid before the House of Represent tives by the Hon. WILLIAM L. WILSON,

The incident of Inspector-General Mo LEWER's report, that is, the fact that such a report could be made and was made, shows that discipline is decidedly lacking in the New York National Guard. The treatment for it lies in reorganization.

Another pervert of a trotting-horse owner has found a new system for making up names that disgrace the track. Some Californian, in order to denote the lineage of a son of the well-named Stamboul, has called his colt Stam B., a variation in horse-naming silliness which ranks with previously considered monstrosities like "Princeer." Mand S. and William H. are anything but pretty names, but they at least are legitimate in being possessed of meaning. Stam B., conceived in senseless ness and born in illiteracy, is positively vulgar. If a child persisted in talking such gibberish it would be whipped and sent to bed.

### THE CHRISTIAN JEW.

The Remarkable and Inconsistent Course of the New York Presbytery.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The o-re-nata meeting of the Presbytery of New York held on Monday, Dec. 28, seems to your correspondent to deserve more attention than it has received in THE SUN. Both its origin and its features are interestingly remarkable. It was called to consider an assertion in the report of a committee which very plainly implied that one born of Jewish parents, especially if brought up in Jewish environment, could hardly be blamed for lack of honesty and truthfulness. This assumption was interjected apologetically in reference to moral allegations made in the report of the committee against the good character of a young man applying to be taken

under the care of the Presbytery, with a view The repudiation of the obnoxious sentence by the pro-re-nata meeting left the allegations against the candidate hald and unmodified

the pro-re-nata meeting left the allegations against the candidate hald and unmodified. This seems to have been intended in the call of the meeting, for it confined the business of the session of the Presbytery to the consideration of the one sentence at which the Jews of our city had taken offence.

The Presbytery, therefore, satisfied with the hope that it had conclinated the Jews, rose, having repeated and strengthened its imprimatur on the allegation, made in the mere report of a committee, of bad moral character against a member of the Presbyterian Church, declared by his pastor and the elders associated with him to be in good and regular standing. Thus, the man who had been commended to the judgment of charity in the report of the committee received by the Presbytery of New York on Dec. 14, was by the same body, on Dec. 28, pronounced to be absolutely without excuse; and this when he is amenable only to the session of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, when he had been refused a hearing by the acting Presbytery. Is not this remarkable?

Perhaps equally so is the zeal against this Christian Jew and missionary, of the head of the city missions. This reverend gentleman threatened in the Presbytery, on the 14th of December, that if this candidate were heard in his own defence ten minutes he himself would speak against him for two hours. How did the young missionary displease the head of the city missions? Each is engaged in work not controlled by the Fresbytery; is there jealousy?

An observer is impelled to wonder, also, why the haste to pincate the Jews is so great, while no one seems to care for the convert from Judaism to Christianity. Surely it was a wrong to act in his case on the ground of his immerality ism to Christianity. Surely it was a wrong to act in his case on the ground of his immorality act in his case on the ground of his immorality and expressly allege it as requiring the action, when he has not had a trial, and when, as is well known to be the case, a committee, including his pastor, exonerated him from the very specifications of wrongdoing upon which the committee directly and the Presbytery indirectly based their judgment. Is the individual Christian Jew of no consideration? Does no one care for him? Are we only to be concerned that the great number of Jewish voters of New York who have social and political weight must not be offended? Is there not an occasion for inquiry here?

not be offended? Is there not an occasion for inquiry here?

The very constitution of the pro-re-nota meeting was remarkable. Members distinguished by literary and ecclesiastical titles and eminent positions were present who are not seen once a year to adorn the body. One of those I had never seen in the Presbytery before. This would cover an absence on his part of many years. There was another who appears there about once in two years and another who perhaps assists in presbyterial functions about once a year or so. They evidently came for the sake of the Jews, not at all, very evidently, with any recard to the rights of the outraged individual. The meeting by virtue of its call and its nature could have no reference to any utterance of the report, except the one sentence which made Judaism an excuse for dishonesty and falsehood.

It is remarkable that in disayowing responsi-

which made Judaism an excuse for dishonesty and falsehood.

It is remarkable that in disavowing responsibility for this imputation the Presbytery itself did not give a very good example of candor. How could the body disavow responsibility for what it had made the reason for rejecting a candidate for the Gosnei ministry, and what, by a vote solemniy expressed in a division, it refused to expunge as the basis of its action? The Presbytery was responsible, and could not truthfully disavow the truth in the case. The whole report of the committee is on the lies of the Fresbytery, and referred to as belonging to its minutes, and contains the reason for rejecting the candidate; and, moreover, the report was confirmed by the Presbytery as its issignment, through a vote taken by standing its, not to expunge the same. When we recall that the candidate whose case was the regester of the question discussed was rejected for want of regard to truth, it is every remarkable indeed that the Presbytery should disayow responsibility for that which it is clearly responsibility for the case of the guestion discussed was referred to the case of the case of the guestion discussed was referred for want of regard to truth, it is every remarkable indeed that the Presbytery should disayow responsibility for that which it is clearly responsibility for the case of the guestion discussed the case of the c

## Ircland's Potato Tercentenary.

From the London tield.

The introduction of the potato into Ireland three centuries ago by Sir Walter Ruleigh was cricbrated by a conference and show in the Retunda, Dublin, by a conference and show in the Retunda, Dublin, last week, under the suspices of the Irish Gardeners' Association. A larger and more meritorious collection of the different varieties of the succulent tuber, "Ireland's staple food," from almost every part of the kingdom was never before witnessed either in Dublin or out of it.

THE PROPOSED BARGAIN WITH SPAIN.

# Utterly Unfriendly to Cubs and Disgraceful to the United States.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: It to daily becoming more apparent to our people how very inopportune to Mr. Cleveland's plans, and those of his Secretary, Mr. Olner, was the time selected by the Committee on Foreign Affairs for their favorable report to the Senato on the Cameron resolutions relating to our country's attitude toward the war now raging in Cuba, Thanks to our newspapers, the truth is coming to the surface, and Americans are being brought to a realization of the fact that for some time prior to the report of the committee, Minister De Lome, on the part of Spain, and Secretary Olney, representing the United States, have been engaged, as they now are, in working out a bargain by which, for the pecuniary consider ation from Spain of a new commercial treaty embodying certain prospective trade selvantages, the United States is to pledge itself to the use of its good offices (?) with the Cubans to induce them to lay down their arms and forego further struggles for independence. As an in fucement to them to do this the United States to guarantee to them the execution by Spain of stipulated promises of reforms by her in her government of Cuba.

My purpose is not to discuss the wisdom of pitting the prerogatives of our President against the duties and powers of our Congress as a means of heading off discussion on the resolutions in question, or of defeating them, and thus gaining time for perfecting the bargain outlined. It is to point the finger of scorn at Spain's past record of broken promises to Cubs and the treatment of the unfortunate inhabitants of that sland, and to urge that the United States can find no justification in either for entertaining such a bargain. Its mere consideration implies the belief that Americans have degenerated into a conglomeration of shopkeepers and money grabbers, whose sense of honor, justice, and the fitness of things is governed by dollars and cents-a people oblivious to every duty to a neighboring nation struggling for independence which does not emanate from a desire to fatter their own pocketbooks. Its continuation would be a disgrace to our country, degrading to its citizens, by whom it never should be tolerated

As a means of bringing happiness and prosperity to Cuba, the guarantee of the United States, on any such basis as here outlined, would be a dismal failure or an inevitable cause of war between the United States and Spain in the net distant future. It would prove certain as a blot on the shield of our country; it would be as indelible as those now on the escutcheon of Spain, PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 30. " 1776,"

### JEFFERSON ON CUBA.

It Would be" the Most Interesting Addition Which Could Ever be Made to Our System. From the Portland Oregonian

They who observe only the externals of history commonly refer to the purchase of Louisiana for which there was no authority in Jefferson's theory of the Constitution, and which compelled extension of the central power he distrusted and development of the nation on lines he thought dangerous, as a solltary instance of deviation of his practice from his pure Demo cratic theories. But his private correspondence shows that he had perceived the ultimate des-tiny of the nation awenty years before. In a letter to Archibald Stuart, Jan. 25, 1788, he wrote: "Our confederacy must be viewed as the nest from which all America, North and South is to be peopled. We should take care, too, not to think it for the interest of that great continent to press too soon on the Spaniards. Those countries cannot be in better hands. My fear is that they are too feeble to hold them till our population can be sufficiently advanced to gain it from them plece by piece."

Here is an imperialist conception worthy of Bonaparte or Bismarck, formed in the mind of the greatest American Democrat three years before the United States became a nati years after, in 1798, Jefferson, as Washington's Secretary of State, wrote to the negotiators our treaty with Spain as follows: "It is intimated to us in such a way as to attract our attention that France means to send a strong force early this spring to offer indeper the Spanish-American colonies, beginning with those on the Mississippi, and that she will not object to receiving those on the east side into our confederation. Interesting considerations require that we should keep ourselves free to act in this case according to circumstances, and, onsequently, that you should not, by any clause of treaty, bind us to guarantee any of the Spanish colonies against their independence. Nor. indeed, against any other nation."

ler of his theories to pra siderations in the Louisiana purchase is famil far history. But he looked further than Louislana; further even than the continent. In a letter to Gov. Claiborne of the new Territory in 1808, when Spain's colonies were beginning to stir in revolt, he said: "The truth is that the patriots of Spain have no warmer friends than the Administration of the United States. but it is our duty to say nothing for or against either. If they succeed we shall be well sailefied to see Cuba and Mexico remain in their present dependence; but very unwilling to see them in that of either France or England, politically or commercially. We consider their interests and ours as the same and that the objects of both must be to exclude all European

influence from this hemisphere." By the time the Spanish colonies had gained their independence, these views of Jefferson had developed to a point not exceeded by many in 1822, endorsing the latter's now historia message, Jefferson said in relation to Cuba "But we have first to ask ourselves a question. Do we wish to acquire to our own confederact any more of the Spanish provinces? I candidly confess that I have ever looked upon Cuba as the most interesting addition which could ever be made to our system of States. The control give us over the Gulf of Mexico and the countries and isthmus bordering on it, as well as all those waters which flow into it, would fall up the measure of our political well being."

These extracts from Jefferson's letters discover that practical side of the man on which he was of real service to his country.

#### Bryan the Actor Exposed From the Atlanta Journal.

Mr. Bryan had a brilliant reputation as a campaigs orator, but he is a flat failure as a political lecture Public opinion never recovers from such a shork si Mr. Bryan inflicted on that ardent Atlanta cons tion of free silver devotees. The poor soul don. did the best he could-but the best can only be se down, in truth, as a sorry meat. It had been pro-claimed from the bousetops all over the Union that the great silver leader was to call the class tearths? in Atlanta and start for the battlefleid of 1900, wit banners flying and the army in marshalled array, but the whole thing took a twist, because the lendgot his password, and the hosts are now bewild It was like a great street paraste of musicions and gilded equipages to herald in a two by-four little ofe act play, that nobody could decide was either rangely

What a mistake it was! And impossible to remein! Dethronement is complete when a great reputal for oratory is pricked into collapse by the speaks blimself. Mus. W. H. Fylins.

To THE EMPTOR OF THE SUN-SIE! ATTER PERSONS OF carefully "Poor Man's" reply to your affinish ments on the sermons preached a that he makes. It is in regar general truth there may be in his remarks observed to containely. Ac., of the rich to his possess they are re-tainly not true as to the Proposed engines. I am a poor man, and have alle as a been

not a member of any church, and hever have have always attended church guite recon listened to the best and most imported ; the best singing, sitting in conform luxurious pews. I have attended to or most fashionable churches, and HALLED

Mount Vennos, Dec. 28.